

For more than a week, I found these birds visiting the same place in the mornings at about 7. Later, I only saw an occasional individual or a pair.

This year (1970) after the first few showers of rain on June 4th, a pair of these birds was seen at the side of the Sion-Trombay Road. After a few days, on June 17th, 1970, another (?) pair was found near the Marouli Church, Trombay, busy collecting twigs, straw etc. and carrying them to a tamarind tree near the church. The nest was large and globular. Another, slightly smaller, was also seen on a mango tree about a furlong away. Both these nests were exposed to the sky with no branches over them.

After a few days, the adults were seen carrying food to the five young in the nest on the tamarind tree. Later, the young were flying about with their parents in the vicinity of their nest.

This note was prompted by the fact that the Pied Myna was not included in THE BIRDS OF BOMBAY AND SALSETTE (1937), but my attention has been drawn to a note by Messrs Sálím Ali and Humayun Abdulali in 1953 (*JBNHS* 51:736) in which they record this species breeding near Dharavi. Mr. Abdulali informs me that he has since continuously seen this bird, often in pairs and small parties, and there appears to be little doubt that it has now established itself in this area.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION,  
PRINCE OF WALES MUSEUM,  
BOMBAY,  
October 22, 1970.

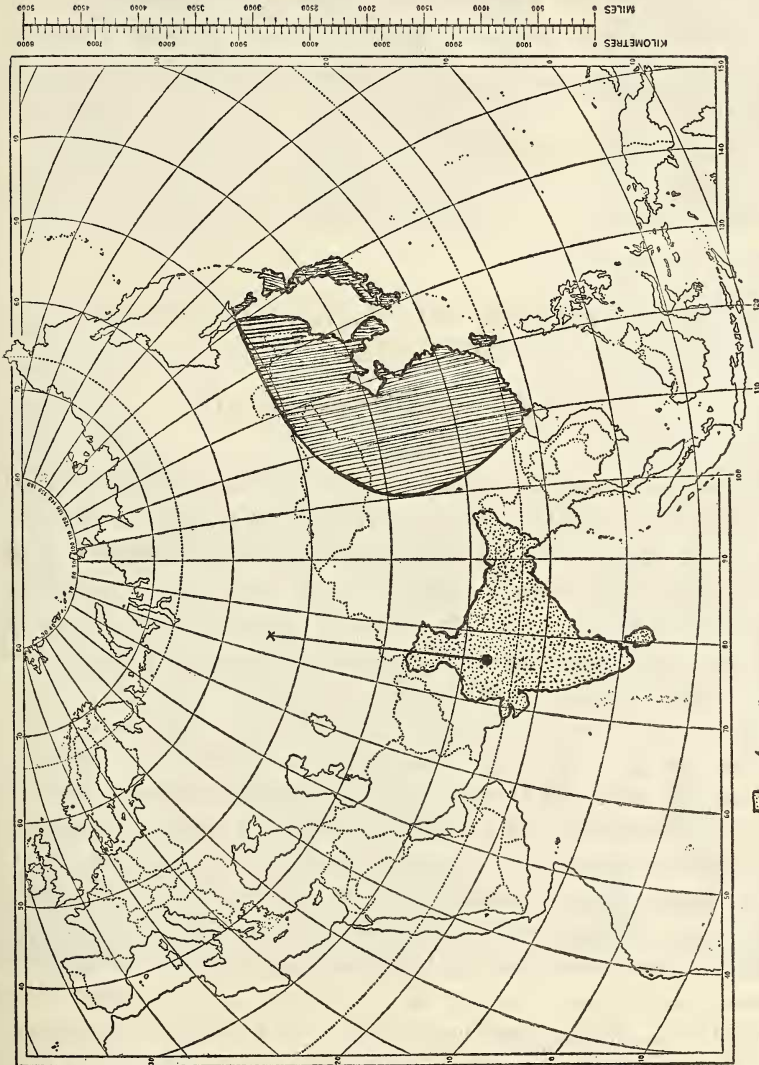
N. J. GEORGE





## 6. RECOVERY OF A SPOTBILL DUCK (*ANAS POECILORHYNCHA*) IN U.S.S.R.

(With a map)

The Bird Ringing Centre, Moscow, U.S.S.R. have reported the recovery of a Spotbill Duck (*Anas poecilorhyncha*) bearing the Society's ring No. F-8510, at Novosibirsk near Bagan (c. 54° 06'N.; 74° 38'E.) sometime during August 1970. The bird, an adult female was ringed by the Society's field party at Bharatpur (c. 27° 13'N.; 77° 32'E.) Rajasthan on 5th December 1969.

This recovery is unexpected as all standard Indian literature considers the nominate race as resident and locally migratory, only the



 *Anas p. poecilorhyncha*  
 *Anas p. zonorhyncha*  
 Ringing Point  
 Recovery Point

Chinese Spotbill (*Anas p. zonorhyncha*) being recorded as truly migratory. It must, however, be noted that Dementiev *et al.* (1952) in BIRDS OF THE SOVIET UNION describe this race as a straggler to the Soviet Union having been recorded from northern Japan to SE. China and Korea.

This particular bird had travelled a distance of about 2884 km. in a northern direction from the point of release in about 8 months.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY, (MISS) SHAILAJA S. SOMANE  
HORNBILL HOUSE,

SHAHID BHAGAT SINGH ROAD,

BOMBAY-1 BR,

December 3, 1970.

## 7. BAYA WEAVERBIRD NESTING ON HUMAN HABITATIONS

(With eight figures in two plates)

The Baya weaverbird (*Ploceus philippinus*) distributed throughout India, Burma, Ceylon, Malaysia and Thailand is famous for its intricately woven, retort-shaped, dangling nest. Equally important is the bird's capacity in selecting a variety of trees and other objects most suitable for siting its nests. In India, at least 30 different species of trees have been preferred as hosts besides telegraph and power lines, sides of wells, copium of compound walls and even eaves of houses.

Jerdon (1863)<sup>1</sup> wrote about the Bayas in India not using houses as nesting sites thus, 'In India I have never seen the Baya suspend its nests except on trees, but in some parts of Burma, and more particularly in Rangoon, the Bayas usually select the thatch of a bungalow to suspend their nests from, regardless of the inhabitants within. In the Cantonment of Rangoon, very many bungalows may be seen with twenty, thirty, or more of these long nests hanging from the end of the thatched roof, and, in one house in which I was an inmate, . . . a small colony commenced their labours towards the end of April, and, in August, when I revisited that station, there were above one hundred nests attached all round the house'. Smythies (1953)<sup>2</sup> also mentions that the eaves of village huts in Burma is one of the preferred places for *Ploceus philippinus* to hang their nests. Recent Indian literature on the Baya

<sup>1</sup> JERDON, T. C. (1863) :—The Birds of India 2, pt. I. The Military Orphan Press, Calcutta.

<sup>2</sup> SMYTHIES, B. E. (1953) :—The Birds of Burma. Oliver & Boyd, London.